

These are inspiring stories, but supporting NIH is important for another reason—meeting the skyrocketing cost of treating chronic diseases. In total, today more than half of Americans are suffering from one or more chronic diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, taken together these chronic diseases cause 7 in 10 deaths and account for about 75 percent of the \$2 trillion we spend on medical care. This year it is estimated that almost 1.7 million people will be diagnosed with cancer, and almost 600,000 are projected to die from this devastating disease. That is approximately 1,600 people a day.

Everyone in this room knows someone who had cancer or has cancer now, and 26 million Americans are living with diabetes, with a new case diagnosed every 30 seconds. An estimated 5.2 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, and we know this number will escalate rapidly in the coming years as the baby boom generation ages.

The growing prevalence of chronic disease is having an impact not just on Americans' physical health but on our economy as well. In 2008 cancer cost our country over \$200 billion. A recent report on diabetes costs shows that the money spent on diabetes care has risen 41 percent, from \$174 billion to \$245 billion in the last 5 years, and Alzheimer's alone is expected to cost our country over \$1 trillion by 2050.

All of us as taxpayers help pay that bill because public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid cover a significant amount of the cost of care and treatment.

If we had earlier interventions and treatments that delayed the onset of these diseases, we would be able to reduce spending significantly. Take Alzheimer's as an example.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session and it be in order to file cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 201 and 220; further, that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived; finally, that if this request is granted, the Senate resume legislative session after the final cloture motion is reported pursuant to this order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate will proceed to executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF BYRON TODD JONES TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Byron Todd Jones, of Minnesota, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Byron Todd Jones, of Minnesota, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mark Begich, Christopher A. Coons, Thomas R. Carper, Patty Murray, Martin Heinrich, Bernard Sanders, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Al Franken, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bill Nelson, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before I proceed, I would just note it is coincidental that the Senator from Minnesota is on the floor. I have heard her often speak about what a wonderful job this man has done as U.S. attorney in the State of Minnesota, in addition to his other duties. I am glad she is on the Senate floor to understand we are moving forward on this nomination.

Mr. President, there is another matter to be reported.

NOMINATION OF SAMANTHA POWER TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be the Representative of the United States to the United Nations with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Representative of the United States America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk on Calendar No. 220.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Mark Begich, Christopher A. Coons, Martin Heinrich, Parry Murray, Bernard Sanders, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Al Franken, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Thomas R. Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bill Nelson, Charles E. Schumer.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

JONES NOMINATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank the majority leader for his work and the Members of the Senate for allowing Todd Jones to get a vote to head the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau. This is a job that has gone unfilled, as you know, for 7 years, since it became confirmable under law—7 years, under President Bush, under President Obama. These 2,400 agents have had no leader.

During that time they have investigated extensive crimes, including just this year the Boston Marathon bombing, as well as the explosion in Texas. These are just examples of what these agents are doing. They deserve a full-time leader.

Mr. Jones is a former marine. He has five children. He has been going back and forth in Minnesota between the U.S. attorney's job and doing the ATF job for 2 years.

Enough is enough. I am glad we are moving forward with this nomination. I am glad for Mr. Jones, who deserves it, and who has been willing to put his name forward, willing to come in, clean up this agency after Fast and Furious and all the concerns we all had with that effort. He was willing to come in, take over this very difficult job, and do two jobs at once. He deserves to be confirmed for this job.

I am pleased for the agents as well, those 2,400 hard-working people who simply go to work every day, immune from the politicians, immune from what Democrats think or what Republicans think. They just deserve a boss. That is what this vote is about.

NIH

Mr. President, I want to finish my remarks about NIH. It is incredibly important in my State. It is the home of the Mayo Clinic, the home of the University of Minnesota where they are now undertaking the simple task of mapping the brain. And talk about what these cuts mean—I focused before